

### **REMARKS**

The claims will be 35-59 upon entry of the above amendment.

These new claims are responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

New claim 35 replaces previous claim 18.

Previous claim 18 was said to be ungrammatical in c), however, this is no longer the case.

Further, claim 18 was said to be indefinite as to what a “solid or dissolved and suspended, respectively” means. Such term no longer appears.

In new claim 35 a), the calcium oxide or calcium hydroxide is not described as being solid, dissolved or suspended since this covers all possibilities. In other words, the calcium oxide or calcium hydroxide can be employed in solid form, dissolved or in a suspension and it is unnecessary to recite each of the possibilities. Accordingly, claim 35 step a) is free from this rejection.

Further, the term “calcium (hydr) oxide” no longer appears instead, the term “calcium hydroxide or calcium oxide” is recited, per the Examiner’s suggestion.

The rejected term “in a manner known per se” in claim 18 no longer appears in new claim 35.

The term “in step b)” no longer appears.

Further, the term “aluminatesalt” no longer appears but rather “aluminate salt” per the Examiner’s suggestion.

The term “the precipitate” no longer appears in claim 35 but it is clear from claim 35 which step produces the precipitate described.

New claim 36 replaces previous claim 19 and minor amendments have been made to clarify what is intended.

New claim 37 replaces previous claim 20 and the preferred range appears in new claim 38.

The rejected term “respectively” does not appear in new claim 56 which replaces previous claim 32.

The term “step” does not appear in any of the claims.

New claims 39 and 40 replace previous claims 21 and 22.

New claims 41 and 42 replace previous claim 23. Claim 42 contains the preferred range of previous claim 23.

New claims 45 and 46 replace previous claim 25. In this regard, the preferred aspect of previous claim 25 appears in new claim 46.

Further the term “alternatively” no longer appears and the alternative variation of previous claim 25 also appears in new claim 46.

The objection to previous claim 25 as ungrammatical is no longer the case with respect to new claims 45 and 46.

New claim 47 replaces previous claim 26.

New claims 48 and 49 replace previous claim 27.

The rejected term “respectively” no longer appears.

New claim 50 replaces previous claim 28. The rejected terminology no longer appears and proper antecedent basis is present.

Previous claim 29 is replaced by new claim 51 and the rejected term “respectively” no longer appears.

The preferred aspects of previous claim 29 now appear in new claim 52.

Claim 53 replaces previous claim 30 and the rejected terminology no longer appears.

The preferred aspects of previous claim 30 appear in new claim 54.

The rejected terminology of previous claim 31 no longer appears. In this regard, antecedent basis is present in step c). Moreover, claim 55, which replaces claim 31, refers to step c) rather than b). In this regard, the filter cake suspended in water is a feature of step c) of previous claim 18 or present claim 35.

Previous claim 32 has been replaced by new claim 56. Claim 56 depends on claim 51.

The preferred aspects of previous claim 32 now appear in claim 57.

With regard to the rejection of “use” claims 33 and 34 and these have been converted to product claims 58 and 59, respectively. Therefore, it is unnecessary to recite steps.

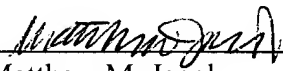
Applicants' acknowledge with appreciation that claims 18-34 are allowable over the cited prior art and it is considered that new claims 35-59 are not only allowable over the cited prior art but are also free from rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101 and 112.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Josef LEHMKUHL et al.

By:   
Matthew M. Jacob  
Registration No. 25,154  
Attorney for Applicants

MJ/tg  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
February 27, 2004